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13 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel Russell A. Berg

SUBJECT : Overseas Operating Base

REFERENCE : TS 143250, Same Subject; Memorandum from Colonel Berg, dated 7 March 1956

1. Since receipt of your referenced memorandum, I have had several conversations and discussions with you on the subject of an operational base for OILSTONE/AQUATONE in the Mediterranean area.

2. I fully concur with your recommendation that Adana be our selection for a Mediterranean base, finding it especially desirable from an operational and logistics standpoint as well as being less costly than some other bases considered.

3. The controlling factor is, of course, political in character. An approach was made to the Department of State on 30 March to ascertain their attitude to a discussion with the Turks concerning our operating from their country. However, it was not possible to receive the Department's answer until 11 April, due to the absence of certain senior officials. On 11 April, an answer was received, the Department of State approving an approach to the Turks through Turkish Air Force channels.

4. On 11 April, I discussed the above matters with Lieutenant Colonel Leo Geary in your absence and informed him that we were dispatching an engineer from Headquarters on 12 April to visit USAFE in Wiesbaden and from there to proceed to Turkey to survey the grounds at Adana, thereby ascertaining what engineering facilities must be undertaken. I would like to request that your support be continued to insure that any engineering facilities found to be necessary be undertaken at once.

5. Although it is our understanding that the Air Force will sustain the costs for construction of additional facilities at Adana, I would like to reassure you that we would be glad to reimburse the Air Force for such costs, if any, that the Air Force finds itself unable to meet.

6. At an early date, I would like to discuss with you arrangements for an approach to the Turkish Air Staff.

Admiral Marshall For
RICHARD M. HISSLELL, JR.
Project Director

ADM/c

Orig & 1 - Addressee 6 - RMB Subj
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